



## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

### **Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; Explosive Materials and Blasting Units (pertains only to underground metal and Category III nonmetal mines deemed to be gassy)**

**ACTION:** Notice of availability; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Labor (DOL) is submitting this Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA)-sponsored information collection request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA). Public comments on the ICR are invited.

**DATES:** The OMB will consider all written comments that the agency receives on or before **[INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain). Find this particular information collection by selecting "Currently under 30-day Review - Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function.

Comments are invited on: (1) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) if the information will be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) the accuracy of the agency's estimates of the burden and cost of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (4) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collection; and (5) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to

respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Nora Hernandez by telephone at 202-693-8633, or by email at DOL\_PRA\_PUBLIC@dol.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under 30 CFR parts 7 and 15, MSHA evaluates and approves explosive materials and blasting units as permissible for use in mines. However, some underground metal and nonmetal Category III mines (gassy mines) use non-approved explosive materials or blasting units. Section 57.22606(a) outlines the procedures for mine operators to follow when using non-approved explosive materials and blasting units.

The standard requires mine operators of underground metal and nonmetal Category III gassy mines to notify MSHA in writing prior to their use of non-approved explosive materials and blasting units. MSHA then evaluates the non-approved explosive materials and blasting units to determine whether they are safe for use in a potentially gassy environment. For additional substantive information about this ICR, see the related notice published in the *Federal Register* on January 21, 2022 (87 FR 3356).

This information collection is subject to the PRA. A Federal agency generally cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information, and the public is generally not required to respond to an information collection, unless the OMB approves it and displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. In addition, notwithstanding any other provisions of law, no person shall generally be subject to penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information that does not display a valid OMB Control Number. *See* 5 CFR 1320.5(a) and 1320.6.

DOL seeks PRA authorization for this information collection for three (3) years. OMB authorization for an ICR cannot be for more than three (3) years without renewal. The

DOL notes that information collection requirements submitted to the OMB for existing ICRs receive a month-to-month extension while they undergo review.

*Agency:* DOL-MSHA.

*Title of Collection:* Explosive Materials and Blasting Units (pertains only to underground metal and Category III nonmetal mines deemed to be gassy)

*OMB Control Number:* 1219-0095.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit.

*Total Estimated Number of Respondents:* 1.

*Total Estimated Number of Responses:* 1.

*Total Estimated Annual Time Burden:* 1 hour.

*Total Estimated Annual Other Costs Burden:* \$6.

(Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3507(a)(1)(D))

**Nora Hernandez,**

*Departmental Clearance Officer.*

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